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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. the Chief Minister, I am led to believe that there will be some retrenchment in the staff of the Prohibition department in the interest of the efficient working of the Prohibition policy. Will the Hon. the Chief Minister come forward to assure the House that such of those as are retrenched from the department for lack of efficiency on their part to work the policy will be re-absorbed in some other departments and that this will not result in total unemployment? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is straying away from the main question. But if the Hon. the Chief Minister is prepared to answer the question, I have no objection."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am prepared to say this much that wherever any change takes place and wherever any economization or reorganization takes place, there is a by-product arising out of it, namely, how to provide for those who have been suddenly retrenched. The Government have always kept this in view and have been trying to do their best."

Congestion of traffic in the City Transport.

* 2 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to relieve the congestion of traffic in the Government City Transport in Madras?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Steps taken immediately on the cessation of the tramway service—

(1) Increase in the number of buses on the road by 40 units, by withdrawing vehicles from mufassal routes over which private services were also operating, and by temporary reduction in the number of vehicles normally withdrawn for periodical servicing.

(2) Addition of 14 Civil Supplies lorries converted for use as lorry-buses.

(3) Retention in service of the old buses which should have been replaced by 43 new buses added to the fleet in the course of the current year. These continue in service even to-day.

(*b*) Immediately after it was definitely known that the tramway service will not be resumed—

(1) Accord of sanction for the purchase of 50 heavy diesel vehicles, each of which could carry 60—70 passengers. These new vehicles will be available in the next financial year.

(2) Replacement, now in progress, of 50 over-aged petrol engines, by diesel engines, to make the older vehicles continue to be serviceable without breakdowns.

(3) Accord of sanction for the replacement of a further 90 over-aged petrol engines by diesel engines. These diesel engines will be available in the next financial year.''

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" ஒரு வருஷம் வரையில் இங்கு இருக்கக்கூடிய ஜனங்கள் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்க முடியாது. ஆகையால் சர்க்கார் லாரிகளை குறைந்த விலையில் வாங்கி அவைகளைப் பஸ்களாக மாற்றியமைத்து, அதிக பஸ்களை விட்டு இட நெருக்கடியைக் குறைக்க முயற்சிக்குமா ? ''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir. We are trying our best to get new buses. Whether it is economical to buy old buses and whether they will be useful for the City Transport Service is a matter on which there can be two opinions. The Government think that it is best to try new buses and we are getting the best buses available in the world.''

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : —" சர்க்கார் எடுத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் நடவடிக்கைகளினால் பஸ்களில் இருக்கக்கூடிய இட நெருக்கடியை தவிர்க்க முடியாமல் இருப்பதால், உடனடியாக ஏதாவது செய்ய வேண்டும் என்பதற்காக, ராணுவத்தினரிடமிருக்கும் லாரிகளை வாங்கி, இட நெருக்கடி தீரும் வரையில் அவைகளை பஸ்களாக உபயோகித்துக் கொள்ள மத்திய சர்க்காரிடம் சர்க்கார் அனுமதி பெற முயற்சிக்குமா ? ''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" We did try that suggestion also. But we found that the employment of these military lorries for public purposes was quite uneconomical.''

SRI M. R. RAMACHANDRAN :—" May I know whether the Traffic Inspectors posted to form and regulate the queue are given discretion to divert the existing buses which go empty so as to see that the traffic congestion during peak hours is avoided? ''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir. They are authorized to divert empty buses to routes which are heavily congested if they find that there is a necessity for it.''

SRI K. V. RAMASWAMI : —" வெய்யில் நேரங்களில் லாரிகளில் செல்லும் பிரயாணிகள் ரொம்ப சிரமப்படுகிறார்கள். ஆகவே அவைகளை பஸ்களாக மாற்றுவதற்கு சர்க்கார் விரைவில் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா ? ''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" We are trying our best to put on the routes the ordinary buses whenever they are available. But if they are not available, it is better to ply lorry-buses than keep the passengers waiting in the sun.''

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Despite the various steps taken by Government, congestion with regard to the City Transport Service continues. Therefore, will the Government take steps to re-start the tramway, the stoppage of which is the real reason for this traffic congestion? ''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The tramway does not belong to the Government and, therefore, we cannot re-start it. If any individual or company is willing to re-start it, we shall do our best to help such individual or company.''

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SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" As buses are compelled to ply with full load, what steps have been taken to get the turn-round of the buses expedited? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Member will admit that compatible with safety, buses can go only at a certain speed. Simply because there are crowds, we cannot make the buses go faster. If we do that, accidents will increase. Therefore, I feel that the suggestion of the hon. Member is not practicable."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—"மாம்பலத்திற்கும் மைலாப்பூருக்கும் அதிகமான பஸ்கள் ஓடுவதற்கும் ஹரிஜன மாணவர்களின் வசதிக்காக பச்சையப்பாஸ் காலேஜிற்கு அதிகமான பஸ்கள் ஓடாததற்கும் காரணம் என்ன ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I do not agree with the point put forward by the hon. Gentleman. We have put in buses in response to traffic demands and in consideration of the necessity of students, adults and ladies also."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" In view of the stoppage of the tramway service and in view of the fact that the nationalized City Bus Transport is not working properly, would the Hon. Minister consider the proposal to throw open the City bus routes to private enterprise? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I do not agree that the nationalized City Bus Transport has not been working properly. I am not sure that there are many private operators, having the necessary spare buses themselves, who are willing now to take over the City Bus Transport, because most operators are running their full complement of buses on the mufassal routes."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" What is the total number of new and old buses last put on the roads of Madras? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The number of buses that are running on the roads of Madras varies from 270 to 290. It depends on how many buses which start in the morning come back."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" My question is this, Sir. What is the number of buses, old and new, put on the roads of Madras on the last occasion? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member must make the question clear. It is not known what he means by 'on the last occasion'."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Recently, Sir, whenever the Government might have put in additional buses."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have just mentioned that we have increased the number of buses by 40 units, withdrawing buses from mufassal routes. We have increased

the number of lorries by 14 and we have now got 45 new lorries. I have just mentioned this in my answer to the main question."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Will the Hon. Minister authorize the starting of buses as and when the buses are full at the starting-point instead of waiting for the expiry of the time-limit? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" That would be a very unwelcome suggestion for it would mean that if the buses are not full, they should be allowed to stay at the starting-point for a longer time than usual. Buses should start from the starting place at the scheduled time so that people at the intermediate stops may be able to get in at the scheduled time."

SRI M. R. RAMACHANDRAN :—" Are the Government aware that due to the traffic congestion bus conductors frequently get annoyed and that the passengers are entirely at the mercy of conductors for getting down and into the buses? "

11-20 a.m. THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" As far as possible, I have appealed to the bus conductors to be very very courteous to the passengers. But, after all, bus conductors are also human beings."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" ஸார், ட்ராம்வே கம்பெனி மூடுவதற்கு முன்பாக எத்தனை பஸ்கள் ஓடிக்கொண்டிருந்தன ? அது மூடப்பட்ட பின் எத்தனை பஸ்கள் ஓடிக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I want notice of that question."

Issue of season tickets in the City Transport.

* 3 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether season tickets are being issued to passengers in the City Transport; and

(*b*) if so, on which routes season tickets are issued?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir. The experiment of issuing season tickets is being tried till the end of March 1954 on the following routes :—

(1) Mylapore–Alwarpet–Royapetta–Parrys;

(2) Mandavalli–Luz–Royapetta–Parrys; and

(3) Mylapore–Luz–Royapetta–Custom House (valid between Mylapore and Parrys only)."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI :—" பாக்கி இருக்கக் கூடிய ரூட்டுகளில் ஏன் சீசன் டிக்கட்டுகள் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை ?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am glad the hon. Member has asked the question. Originally, we started the experiment of issuing season tickets on two routes, viz., Parrys to Mylapore and Parrys to Perambur. The response